



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE ERNEST HEWETT
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Testimony of Representative Ernest Hewett in support of HB 5393
Commerce Committee Public Hearing
February 14, 2013

Honorable Co-Chairmen, Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone, and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee, My name is State Representative Ernest Hewett and I am here before you to testify in favor of House Bill 5393, An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London. This bill, if enacted would provide funding for the Lyman Allyn Art Museum to purchase a natural gas HVAC system.

Opened in 1932 The Lyman Allyn Art Museum is a community art museum with nonprofit 501 c 3 status and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It serves the residents of New London who are admitted free of charge. The museum fully subsidizes field trips by the public schools of New London. The museum also serves the residents of this great state.

The bond request is for \$2.9 million to replace the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning systems. The HVAC system has been operating for more than 21 years and despite the fact that it can still run, it does require repair. The majority of the existing equipment is in need of vital replacement. The boilers and chiller run 365 days a year and has been in need of perpetual repairs. One of the boilers had failed along with the system have been repaired approximately six times a month. This problem has to stop as it could potentially get worse, which is why the money is needed to fund the solution of this problem.

Not only will a new HVAC system solve this problem it will also help reduce the energy consumption. 450 gallons of oil is used monthly to fuel one of the three boilers. A newer HVAC system that is energy efficient will cut the energy cost by about 30%. It is critical to have a new HVAC system because the artwork in the museum depends on it. The museum has over 10,000 works of art for the public to observe and educate. The temperature needs to be balanced in order to preserve the artwork displayed.

I urge the committee to approve this measure. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Hewett'.

Ernest Hewett
39th District